# THE DISSEMINATOR

Nova Scotia Provincial Library

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An electronic newsletter from the Nova Scotia Provincial Library

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## COUNCIL OF REGIONAL LIBRARIANS MEETING

On September 26 & 27, the Council of Regional Librarians held their semi-annual meeting at the Provincial Library. Topics of discussion included: revisions to the budget and statistical reporting forms to make these more practical for the libraries to use while still providing the desired information in a standardized format; resource sharing and methods of speeding up document delivery - of particular importance now that automation is giving the public much greater awareness of the materials available across the province; regional library automation; school library and public library cooperation and fundraising.

The group shared ideas on fundraising activities ranging from Adopt-a-Book campaigns, to In Memoriam cards, Kite Flying, a Cafe on the Lawn, and a Fun Day. Although many of these activities did not raise large amounts of money, all felt the public relations aspect was worth the effort.

Public access to the Internet is being very well used in those libraries that are currently offering it. The libraries not yet connected to the Internet will all be connected by mid-November. The group viewed a variety of new Nova Scotia Web sites including the Acadian Odyssey, Transatlantic Cable Communications, and the Black Cultural Centre for Nova Scotia (see our Web site to go to these - http://rs6000.nshpl.library.ns.ca). The next CORL meeting will be held May 1 & 2, 1997 in Yarmouth.

## INTERNET INTEREST HIGH IN CAPE BRETON

Public Internet access has been a great success at the McConnell Library in Sydney. Since the service was introduced at this branch of the Cape Breton Regional Library in June, a total of 947 people have signed our Internet Acceptable Use Policy. On average, 796 of the 913 available hours are being used each month for public Internet searching. This translates into an 87% usage rate of the public access terminals.

Through funding provided by Human Resources Development Canada the library was able to hire a summer student, Michael Dunlavy, to provide training for library staff and the public. He and library staff member Rosalie Gillis set up a volunteer training programme so that introductory sessions to the Internet would be available to the public. The interest in these sessions has been very high, and continues to grow each month. During a three month period 204 patrons were given training on

searching the Internet, and a total of 92 volunteer hours were logged.

In order to utilize the public access terminals, users must hold a valid library card. A number of people who did not previously hold library cards have signed up in order to be able to search the Internet and library staff have noted that many of these people are now also using the library for other purposes, such as borrowing books and videos.

Publicity of the service has been mainly by "word of mouth". The Cape Breton Post carried a short article earlier in the summer, and due to the immediate popularity of the site, only two posters were placed throughout the community. The location of the terminals near the library's main entrance has also aided in making the public aware that they are available for use.

Two of the public access terminals were purchased with funding provided through the Community Access Project (Industry Canada). The additional two terminals and the online connection for each terminal are provided by the Nova Scotia Provincial Library and the Cape Breton Regional Library Board. -- Faye Hopkins, Cape Breton Regional Library

**ON THE ROAD AGAIN**

Carol Morris and Gillian Webster from the Provincial Library's User Services Section paid a visit to the staff of the Colchester-East Hants Regional Library on October 7 during the library's in-service day. Carol and Gillian spoke to staff from the headquarters and branches about the reference services provided by the Provincial Library. Discussion included the various online systems and major print reference works held at the Provincial Library as well as the various means through which reference requests can be submitted including some helpful guidelines. The site visit provided an opportunity to illustrate the types of reference questions which User Services staff can assist with as well as allowing staff members from both organizations to meet. A visit to the Cumberland Regional Library is planned for November 18 coinciding with one of that region's in-service days. We hope to arrange visits to other regional libraries during the coming year.

**MODIFICATIONS TO NCOMPASS ..ASTER DATABASE**

Within the multi-bank environment of NcompasS, the regional libraries' master database, known as Bank 1, underlies the online system of all regional libraries in Nova Scotia outside of the metro Halifax area. This master database has a long history, with origins in both the National Library's union catalogue DOBIS (now AMICUS) and the UTLAS database (now ISM). The history and subsequent changes to cataloguing procedures over the years at the Provincial Library resulted in a database which required some "pruning and re-potting" before the automation of any of the regional libraries could begin.

The modifications have taken over four months and the final result has now been reloaded back into NcompasS. This project was very ably lead by the conversion team of DRA/MultiLIS in Montreal whose accurate and knowledgeable work contributed greatly to the success of this venture. The master

database is now well situated to become the basis of eight more databases (or banks) on NcompasS, one for each of the eight regional libraries outside of metro Halifax. These libraries will now be able to utilise the full potential of collection codes in the design of their autonomous loan policies and in the management of their separate collections. This autonomy within one system is one of the benefits of the multi-bank design of MultiLIS.

Another objective was to make modifications that would give the master database the ability to respond to different strengths in the collections of each particular regional library when first populating a regional library's own bank. This in turn will allow each regional library to be responsive to the particular readership requirements of its branches prior to the commencement of the Collection Exchange module of MultiLIS. The capacity for periodic rotation of collections through the branches of a region is another bonus which has the potential of both stretching libraries' book budgets and giving patrons a greater variety of titles to browse.

The Provincial Library has been invited to join the DRA/MultiLIS User Group in order to participate in an ongoing discussion with other libraries worldwide that use the same software. We feel that this is a necessary step in learning how to use the software to its fullest potential, in finding solutions to operational problems, and in participating in the future development of the DRA software.

## "ACCESS TO THE HOLDINGS OF N.S. LIBRARIES" PROJECT

Following the Beaumont and Associates study which was mandated to determine a model for providing public access to the holdings of Nova Scotia libraries in the absence of a National Union Catalogue, discussions have been ongoing within the Nova Scotia Government Libraries Council to further define a Common Standard Format for bibliographic records of all member libraries. This would simultaneously promote standardisation of cataloguing data and be a first step in forming a Special Libraries union catalogue for resource sharing purposes.

Within the NSGLC, a working group (of which the Provincial Library is a member) has been set up to refine the Common Standard Format (CSF) taking advantage of the excellent work carried out previously by the Council on this topic. The working group has been meeting to hammer out the details of the project and plan to make a final report to the Council before the end of this calendar year. The mandate of the working group is to revise the CSF to accommodate all libraries and to determine the MARC equivalents to each field.

As libraries gradually adopt the CSF and bring their electronic records into line with at least its minimum requirements, they will then be well placed to periodically submit copies of their catalogue to a merged database of Nova Scotia Special Library holdings. One possible system where such a merged database could be placed is in a Nova Scotia Special Libraries bank on NcompasS, where it will be automatically accessible to both the Internet and multi-database searching using the Z39.50 protocol. Such a move would bring the advantages of one-place-to-look for anyone using the Internet in search of Nova Scotia government documents, reports and the other holdings of these varied libraries.

As a related news item, the Provincial Library has accepted an invitation by the National Library of Canada to participate in a pilot project to test the practical limitations of the concept of a virtual Canadian union catalogue (VcuC). This will involve testing Z39.50 protocol target and client proprietary software, in this case DRA's. The target software is expected from the vendor in the immediate future. For more information, contact Bridget Turner (bturner@nshpl.library.ns.ca).

**LibraryNet**

The following are excerpts from a paper called "Introducing LibraryNet; a concept paper" prepared by Stan Skrzeszewski and Maureen Cubberley of Advanced Strategic Management. Copies of the complete report can be obtained from the Provincial Library by contacting Debbie Ross (rossdl@gov.ns.ca) at 424-2457.

"LibraryNet is a cooperative venture on the part of Canada's libraries, library jurisdictions and agencies, and the federal government. Connecting all public libraries to the Internet by 2000 is the goal of the federal government. Library Net is a strategy to help facilitate that goal."

A Library Net Advisory Committee has been established with membership consisting of all the Provincial and Territorial Library Directors, CLA, Association of Small University Libraries and ASTED. At the last meeting held in Ottawa on September 20 1996, the following action items were agreed upon:
1. Develop a training plan for library staff that they can pass on to library patrons through train the trainers mechanisms. Each province and territory has agreed to supply their plans to a central clearinghouse at Industry Canada for redistribution across the country.
2. Communications: Set up a LibraryNet listserv and develop a communications plan with a visual identity for LibraryNet. Construct a LibraryNet website.
3. Submit 3 virtual library projects that involve indexing, database development, information networks or other navigational aids for special funding of $30,000 each. These projects would be national pilots.
4. Approach banks to see if there is interest in providing excess capacity on their networks for library traffic.
5. Develop a paper on Libraries as Economic Incubators for publication.

These projects are all short term to launch LibraryNet. Ideas for further development in libraries would be most welcome. Please contact Marion Pape (papeml@gov.ns.ca) for further information or to contribute ideas.

**NSLA CONFERENCE REPORT**

Several Provincial Library staff members attended the annual Nova Scotia Library Association Conference hosted this year by the Cumberland Regional Library in Amherst from October 24-26. Some are saying that it was the very best NSLA Conference yet. Now this is truly a compliment to the

organizers of this conference in particular and to NSLA in general. Way to go Cumberland!

## COMMUNITY ACCESS '96 CONFERENCE

The Community Access '96 Conference will take place November 21-23 at the Delta Hotel, Sydney. This is a conference on Community Access for the Atlantic Provinces to assist those active and/or interested in facilitating community access. Every community access site will be funded to send one representative. Speakers/facilitators will include: Steve Cisler of Apple Corp. in Cupertino, California; Garth Graham of the National Capital Freenet in Ashton, Ontario; Pam Curry of the Center for Economic Options, West Virginia; Karen Adams, Canadian Library Association; Joan Brown-Hicks and Michael Colborne of the Halifax Regional Library; and Susan Arbing of the Government Information Pilot Project. The registration fee is $200 a person until November 15; $150 a person for groups of five or more. The registration fee includes all scheduled meals. To register contact Lee Singleton at the Centre for Community and Enterprise Networking (leesing@sparc.uccb.ns.ca). For more information, contact Marion Pape (papeml@gov.ns.ca).

## STAFFING NOTES

Carol-Ann Belisle has resigned her position as Coordinator of School Libraries. Her time at the Provincial Library has been very valuable, however, she is returning to her previous position with the new Halifax Regional School Board. While she looks forward at this time to a "grassroots" experience, it is with disappointment that we bid her farewell.

We've thrown down the welcome mat this month to Debbie Taylor, who is filling the Coordinator of User Services position on a casual basis until December 31. Debbie was the Coordinator of Public Library Services with the former Halifax County Regional Library from 1990 to 1996. In that capacity, she worked directly with the branch libraries in Hubbards, Musquodoboit Harbour, and Sheet Harbour, the Mobile Libraries and the Books-by-Mail service as well as the regional youth services department.

Craig Dutton and Lois Oliver have recently started working in the Technical Services section of the Provincial Library. They are completing the reconversion of Annapolis Valley Regional Library's manual records, a necessary prerequisite to the automation of the library. Lois is working out of the Provincial Library for the Annapolis Valley Regional Library.

During October, we had two students from YWCA Women Works: Complete Computer Concepts. Melissa Langille and Belinda Dupont spent their time at the Provincial Library setting up the PC's for the remaining public access terminals in the regional libraries. These terminals will be shipped to the libraries in the near future.

## LINKed

This month the theme is book reviews. If you know of any interesting sites or if you would like to

suggest a theme for future columns, e-mail me (sdirani@nshpl.library.ns.ca).

Booklist Magazine
http://www.ala.org/booklist/index.html
- the digital version of the American Library Association's helpful selection tool for librarians. You can find reviews here on books for youth, reference books, and audiovisual media. There's an archive too!

The Reader
http://www.literascape.com/Readers/Archive/index.html
- published by Duthie Books of Vancouver, this magazine is devoted to book reviews. One drawback, however, is that it is not searchable so you have to browse the issues.

Danny Yee's Book Reviews
http://www.anatomy.su.oz.au/danny/book-reviews/index.html
- a relatively small database of 330 personal book reviews. One advantage is that you can search the database to find a review for a specific title. Yee also maintains an archive of the rec.arts.books.reviews newsgroup.

Rec.Arts.Books.Reviews Archive
http://ucsub.Colorado.EDU/~brock/
- from this URL you can search the archive of book reviews posted to the rec.arts.books.reviews newsgroup. If you scroll further down the page, you'll also see a link to Danny Yee's gopher-based archive of the same newsgroup. Yee's archive is searchable AND browseable. Who IS Danny Yee?? -- Sue Dirani

**REFERENCE ON THE NET**

More reference questions received at the NS Provincial Library which were answered using the Internet.

Q. Library staff would like to find some Internet sites which contain biographical information.

A. There is a list of sites that contain biographical information at the following address: http://www.yahoo.com/Society_and_Culture/People/ This list is broken down into categories including athletes, television personalities, authors, entertainment, etc. The page administrators try to keep track of all known sites so it is usually very current.

Q. Patron would like information on Scottish wedding traditions.

A. We searched the term "Scottish wedding" using the AltaVista search engine and an article titled "TYPICAL SCOTTISH WEDDING (for today's Bride and Groom)" was found at the address http://sava.gulfnet.com/user_pages/kele/Scotwed.html. The site provides information on costumes for the wedding

party, the music, the reception and the toasts. -- Carol Morris

## PROFESSIONAL READING

In this month's column, we are featuring two American Library Association video tapes as well as a book on the Internet. These items can be obtained from the Provincial Library's Professional Collection through regular interlibrary loan channels.

1) Benson, Allen C. and Fodemski, Linda M. - Connecting Kids and the Internet: a handbook for librarians, teachers, and parents. New York: Neal-Schuman Pub, 1996. (Call # Prof 025 .04 Ben ).

- This book was designed to be a handbook and basic reference guide to assist teachers, librarians and parents in introducing the Internet and all its resources to young people. The authors assume that the reader has no prior experience with the Internet and explain in easy-to-understand terms what the Internet is, how you can connect to it, what services are available, which tools can be used to access free resources and how you can introduce these resources to children so that they can put them to practical use. The book has unique lesson plans that teach kids how to utilize the Internet as a communication and resource discovery tool.

2) Lustberg, Arch - Using the Media to your Advantage. Towson, Md: ALA Video / Library Video Network, c1995. Format: VHS; Running Time: 50 minutes. (Call # Prof. 302 .2 Usi)

- In this video, commentator Arch Lustberg, provides tips and techniques for handling radio, television and print media. Specifically, Lustberg illustrates how to turn hostile interviews into positive communication, how to make your information quotable and memorable, how to look good on camera and how to control the media experience. He also illustrates how to build the perception of competence, so necessary in today's quick-hit media world.

3) Marketing: a Planned Approach for the Public Library. Towson, Md: ALA Video Library Video Network, c1989. Format: VHS; Running Time: 24 minutes. (Call # Prof. 021 .7 Mar).

- This video shows how to apply the principles of marketing to your library. It describes a planning process for achieving a successful marketing strategy that can help match community needs to library strengths and increase use. A five step planning process is described which includes getting to know the community served by your library, role selection, segmenting and targeting the market, strategizing - writing goals and objectives; and evaluation to realize your library's potential. -- Frank Oram

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